



Charlotte - Mecklenburg Schools

Recycle for Your Future

Recycling Team

This factsheet informs you on how to do your part to make the Charlotte - Mecklenburg Schools Recycling Program a success.

- 1 Use the buddy system.** Always work with a buddy and let your Recycling Coordinator know when you are working on the recycling program. Your recycling team may want to wear badges or buttons to show teachers that you are collecting recyclables.
- 2 Learn what materials can be recycled.** White and colored paper, computer/copy paper, flattened corrugated cardboard, paperboard, glossy papers such as magazines, newspapers, and telephone books can be recycled. Empty cans and plastic drink bottles can also be recycled. Paper products used in restrooms and the cafeteria and paper that has been in contact with food or gum are not recyclable.
- 3 Designate placement of recycle containers.** Your Recycling Coordinator will help you designate placement of recycle containers. Medium size containers are used in classrooms, media centers, and individual offices. Large containers should be placed in art rooms and at copiers. Rolling containers can be used to collect recyclables from classrooms and transport them to the outside recycling dumpster. If your school recycles cans and plastic drink bottles, place recycle containers for these items near vending machines and at the cafeteria. The can and bottle recycle containers should always be lined with plastic bags.
- 4 Flatten your cardboard.** Generally, it works best if you designate specific locations to collect flattened cardboard boxes. The cafeteria, copy room, administrative offices, media center, and school store are the main sources of cardboard.
- 5 Schedule pickup of recyclables.** Recyclables should be emptied from the inside collection containers or locations on a regular schedule (time and day). Your Recycling Coordinator will assign you classrooms and locations to perform pickups of recyclables. Stick with collecting from your assigned classrooms and locations only and work quickly and quietly.
- 6 Move recyclables to the outside recycling dumpster.** When your inside collection is complete let your Recycling Coordinator know you are ready to move recyclables to the outside recycling dumpster. Do not go to the outside recycling dumpster unless your Recycling Coordinator or a school representative is present.
- 7 Stop Contamination!** Contamination can mean an entire dumpster or truck of recyclables will be sent to the landfill instead of the recycling facility. Contamination occurs when trash and non-recyclable items are put in the recycling containers. Students are often the first line of defense against contamination. Pizza boxes and half-full drink cans and bottles are major sources of contamination. If contamination is observed in an inside collection container, all of the contents of that container must go in the trash. Trash containers should be placed near recycling containers in order to minimize contamination.

Printed on Recycled Paper

It's Up to You...

Recycle...it's the law!

The Mecklenburg County Recycling Ordinance requires schools that generate 16 cubic yards or more of trash per week (or two standard dumpsters) to keep cardboard and paper out of their dumpsters. A school can be fined if it is not recycling.

Good News... Your school is recycling and you can help by doing your part! Paper, cardboard, cans, and plastic drink bottles are collected in your school and placed in an outside recycling container where they are picked up on a weekly or sometimes daily basis. Recyclables picked up from your school are sent to the recycling facility to be recycled into new paper, cardboard, insulation materials, cans, bottles, and many other items.

Make the Recycling Program a Success

- Know who your school Recycling Coordinator is and how to alert him or her to any problems with the recycling program.
- Relocate recycling containers (with the Recycling Coordinator's "OK") that are not handy for students to use to dispose of their recyclable materials. Add containers to areas that do not have one and exchange containers that overflow between pickups with a larger container.
- Watch for contamination and dump a recycling container with contamination into the trash.
- Monitor the outside recycling container for contamination and overflow and tell your Recycling Coordinator about any problems.
- Challenge a class to a recycling competition. Competition ideas: most paper collected (by weight) per class for a week, most re-use ideas for paper, most creative re-use idea for paper.
- If contamination is frequently found in the recycling containers or large amounts of recyclable paper is discarded in the trash, tell your Recycling Coordinator.

For additional materials: 704-336-3777
For missed or extra pickup: 704-336-5371

Mecklenburg County Waste Reduction
700 N. Tryon St. - Charlotte, NC 28202
<http://www.wipeoutwaste.com>

